



Tapuitema

...ina ia manino le folaua.

Official American Samoa Government Weekly Newsletter

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Governor's Message for White Sunday 2007

(UTULEI) – Acting Governor Ipulasi Aitofele Sunia, on behalf of Governor Togiola Tulafono and their respective families, issued the following White Sunday message for the Territory.

“Our Children Hold A Special Place In Our Lives”

The greatest success any parent can hope to achieve is to raise healthy and happy children. And it is in the hearts and minds of every parent to build a bright future for all their children because our children hold a special place in our lives.

As we celebrate White Sunday this year, and every year, we, as parents and grandparents, join aunts and uncles, the extended family, the school, the church, the village and our island community, to celebrate our children.

Traditionally, for most of American Samoa, this Sunday provides us with an opportunity to create a festive day for our children, all dressed in white, to present the Scripture readings, sermon, prayers, plays, music and memory verses during our respective church services.

Now, White Sunday is more than that. It is a day to remind us to cherish and value each child in our lives. Whether it is your very own, your niece, your nephew, or your neighbor's child. It is a special day that allows us to celebrate and show our love for our children not only through our words, but also through creating a special bond that helps us expand and reinforce the strengths of our children. Showing our love for our children includes making the tough decisions and important investments necessary to give our children the opportunity to achieve their dreams.

On behalf of my wife - Mary, Lieutenant Governor Ipulasi, Mrs. Elisapeta Sunia, and all our children and grandchildren, we wish all the children and families of American Samoa a very happy, blessed and safe White Sunday. Ia manuia le Lotu a Tamaiti.”

For additional news, information and much, much more about your government, visit the ASG Website at <http://www.americansamoa.gov>



Acting Gov. Ipulasi statement on death of SPC Avealalo Milo in Iraq

(UTULEI) - Acting Governor Ipulasi Aitofele Sunia today issued a statement on hearing of the death of another Samoan soldier in Iraq.

STATEMENT

On behalf of Governor Togiola Tulafono and the people and government of American Samoa, I offer my profound sympathy to the family of U.S. Army Specialist Avealalo Milo, who gave his life with honor to protect our nation and our island home.

Specialist Milo, 23 years - old, was killed in action on Thursday, October 4th while engaged with enemy forces in Bagdad, Iraq.

SPC Milo is the son of Mr. Mareko Milo and Mrs. Folola Milo of Malaeimi, American Samoa and Vaivase, Samoa. He has two sisters and a brother. He joined the U.S. Army in 2005 and was stationed at Fort Irwin in Barstow, California before being

deployed to Iraq. SPC Milo had been married for only three months to his wife Joshlyn Milo.

Specialist Milo attended one year at Samoana High School as a freshman in 1997 before completing his studies at Lepa School in Samoa in 2001. He moved to California in 2003, where he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2005.

Specialist Milo's bravery and sacrifice will always be remembered as he willingly served America and protected the freedom of the world, while fighting to restore the freedom of another land.

I ask all of American Samoa to unite in prayer for the comfort of his family during this painful time. Our sincerest condolences go out to his parents, Mareko and Folola, to his widow – Joshlyn, his sisters, his brother and the entire Milo family. May God's grace provide us all with comfort during this time of grief.

FAA agrees to provide millions for Airport Rehabilitation Project

Nearly five years after the Nov. 1, 2002 project application was submitted, the US Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration has offered and agreed to pay, as the United States' share, one-hundred percent of the first \$2 million of allowable costs and ninety-five percent of all allowable project costs over \$2 million incurred in accomplishing the Runway 08/26 - Phase II Rehabilitation Project at the Pago Pago International Airport.

This was announced through a grant agreement dated June 22, 2007 and signed by the manager of the Honolulu Airports District Office Ronnie V. Simpson.

The acceptance agreement was signed by both Governor Togiola Tulafono and Attorney General Fepulea'i Afa Ripley on behalf of the American Samoa Government. The agreement basically states that the ASG will accomplish the project in compliance with the terms and conditions already set forth and agreed to.

According to the grant agreement, the maximum obligation of the United States payable under the offer is \$4.6 million for airport development. This does not include any money for noise program implementation, land, and planning.

The said project is being carried out by McConnell Dowell and Fulton Hogan, at a price tag of \$6,418,910.97. Besides the runway rehabilitation project, the FAA has also approved funding to set up two jet bridges at the airport.

The jet bridges, which will be constructed during the apron rehabilitation project set to begin at the end of this year, will be designed to accommodate a future, more modern, airport terminal.

Other completed, ongoing, and proposed airport projects include the taxiway alpha rehabilitation project, the Airport Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) rapid response road, and the Hot Fire Training Facility.

SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES

with your ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa. Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to: Harry Stevens (harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov) or Vince Iuli (vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov)

DOI/NOAA contribute \$300K for AS Coral Reef Initiative

The Department of Interior and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have contributed \$300,000 to support American Samoa's Coral Reef Initiative staff positions and projects.

The donation, delivered in form of a check, was presented by the co-chair of the US Coral Reef Task Force Nikolao Pula last month during the 18th USCRTF meeting held at the Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium.

The contribution is only one of many positive things that have come to light since Governor Togiola Tulafono and his administration made clear their stance to prioritize the conservation and protection of the territory's coral reefs and marine resources.

The ongoing efforts are receiving strong support from ASG agencies like the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources whose director, Ufagafa Ray Tulafono announced last month their commitment to the stated goal, which includes initiating public hearings and consultations to educate locals on ways to protect the territory's largest reef fish species like all shark species, giant trevally, giant groupers, bumphead parrot fish and bumphead wrasse - all of which are rare and at risk of exploitation.

But efforts don't have to stop here. The Governor stresses the territory's need to learn from all of our partners from the Caribbean to the Pacific, and that's why he is requesting additional stakeholder representation on the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program review panel to include: The All Islands Coral Reef Secretariat Chair, a representative from the Caribbean and Pacific jurisdictions, and an international stakeholder.

The Governor is armed with a draft of the 2002-2006 Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Report for American Samoa from the Coral Reef Ecosystem Division Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center.

Currently, the Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG) is reviewing the report which Togiola believes is a "valuable tool" to assist local management efforts in coral reef conservation and management.

Togiola explained, "One of the biggest challenges we face is ensuring that all resource agencies support our efforts and work in concert with us. Many of our federal partners have developed implementation plans to address impacts to coral reefs. These plans assess the agency's regulatory frameworks and consider potential changes to statutes to best protect coral reefs. I would like to challenge the USEPA and US Army Corps of Engineers to review and assess their mandates and statutes to provide more directed and stronger support to local partners in addressing their mandates to conserve and protect coral reefs."

With the assistance of Gerry Davis and Flinn Curren, the Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG) has adopted a new organizational structure to guide the process of revising local action strategies. The key partners in CRAG will lead a local action strategy-working group and Togiola is confident that this new structure will invigorate CRAG and empower local environmental leaders to combat the threats facing the coral reefs.



*Ufagafa Ray Tulafono
Director,
Department of Marine & Wildlife Resources*

Get your share of the \$200K available from DBAS for home renovation loans

The Development Bank of American Samoa has announced the availability of \$200,000 in direct financing for home renovation loans. The announcement comes just in time for many locals who long to spruce up their homes for the upcoming holiday season.

The application package is available at the DBAS office in Pago Pago and applications will be accepted between October 22-26, 2007 on a first come, first-served basis.

The maximum loan amount is \$10,000 with a maximum term of 84 months (7 years).

The best thing is - the fixed interest rate is an affordably low 9.50%.

There is a \$75 non-refundable application fee and more information can be obtained by visiting the DBAS office or calling 633-4031.

Governor Togiola travels to Guam and Korea

(UTULEI) - Governor Togiola Tulafono departed the Territory on Thursday evening, October 4th, for a two-week trip that will take him to Guam and Korea.

In Guam, Governor Togiola will attend the Conference on Business Opportunities in the Islands that began on Monday, October 8th.

The two-day conference is the fourth meeting organized and sponsored by the Department of the Interior (DOI) to stimulate business opportunities in the U.S. territories. The previous three conferences were held in Los Angeles, American Samoa and Honolulu.

"The DOI conference is a great opportunity to meet and forge partnerships with business and investment companies to set up business in American Samoa and other U.S. territories," said Governor Togiola. "As we've done in other business opportunities conferences, we continue to promote the Territory as a great place to invest, set up and do business, and at the same time it allows us to see and learn ways on how to improve the marketing of American Samoa to potential investors."

In Seoul, South Korea, Governor Togiola and First Lady Mary Ann will visit with sons and daughters of American Samoa in the Armed Forces that are stationed there.

Governor Togiola said he continues to receive emails and letters from American Samoan military personnel on tour of duty in Korea telling him of the great things they continue to do as a Samoan family unit away from home and their organization, Republic of Korea Samoan Association, or ROKSA.

"It's an honor to have this opportunity to travel to the northwestern part of the Pacific to the business opportunities conference because it also allows me to continue on to Korea to meet and visit our Samoan soldiers and their families who are stationed there," said Governor Togiola. "I truly enjoy hearing and reading about the wonderful work that our soldiers and ROKSA continue to do to promote unity and harmony and especially our Samoan culture in Korea. We are very excited that we will be meeting and visiting with our soldiers and we really look forward to it. While we have the opportunity, our trip there is to say thank you for your commitment to service."

Governor Togiola will return to the Territory on October 21st.

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On October 10, 1897, Agnes Genevieve "Aggie" Swann (later Grey) was born in Toamua, 'Upolu, the second daughter of William J. Swann of Staffordshire, England, and Pele Maiava Swann of Toamua.

On October 11, 1949, a Court of Inquiry was "Convened at the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila, American Samoa, by Order of Commander, Service Force, United States Pacific Fleet, to inquire into all the circumstances connected with the explosion of gasoline in USS *Chehalis* AOG-48, the burning of USS *Chehalis* AOG-48, and the capsizing of USS *Chehalis* AOG-48, on October 7, 1949, at Tutuila, American Samoa."

On October 13, 1856, Eli Hutchinson Jennings---adventurer, shipbuilder, planter and founder of the Jennings clan---landed with his wife Mere (also known as "Maria" and "Malie") on Swains Island and raised the U.S. flag.

On October 13, 1954, solo sailor William Willis, aboard his raft *The Seven Little Sisters*, sighted Tutuila 20 miles SSW of his position. He decided to attempt a landing in "British [i.e., Western] Samoa," which had 200 miles of coastline, and thus afforded a larger target.

On October 14, 1954, the American Samoa Government's vessel *Mann'atele* sighted William Willis's raft *The Seven Little Sisters*, and towed it into Pago Pago Harbor.

On October 15, 1904, the U.S. Government purchased a parcel of land at Blunts Point for the construction of an observatory.

On October 15, 1956, Richard B. Lowe ended his term as American Samoa's fifth appointed civil governor (since October 1, 1953), and was succeeded by Peter Tali Coleman, who was American Samoa's only appointed Samoan governor, and the longest-serving governor in the Territory's history.

On October 15, 1921, American Samoa's Governor, Captain Waldo Evans, issued his "Regulation No. 4: A REGULATION Prohibiting the delivery of undried, unripe, overripe, decayed or unclean copra; prohibiting the delivery of any other product, material or substance, in part or in whole, with intent to obtain copra receipts therefor, and providing penalties for violations thereof."

On October 15, 1954, William Willis entered Pago Pago Harbor at 0100, having completed a 6700-mile solo journey from Callao, Peru at age 61 on his raft *The Seven Little Sisters*, which was towed into the harbor by the MV *Mann'atele*.

On October 15, 1974, Frank C. Mockler began his term as American Samoa's tenth appointed civil governor (acting: until February 6, 1975).

On October 16, 1877, Samoa's first mail service was inaugurated, as advertised in the "*Samoa Times: Navigator's Islands*." The notice read: "Mail Notice. A mail will be made up at this office to go by the schooner 'Energy' on Wednesday the 16th inst. for New Zealand, the Australian colonies, Europe and America. Mail will close at 6 a.m. W.E. Agar, Manager." The "Samoa Express" issued stamps in denominations of 1, 3 and 6 pence.

On October 16, 1897, Mauga Manuma, co-signer of the first American-Samoan treaty with Commander Richard Meade of USS *Narragansett* on March 2, 1872, died in Pago Pago.

On October 16, 1942, "The steamship *Alcoa Pennant* sailed from Nouméa, New Caledonia for Pago Pago. Aboard was a detachment from the 1st and 2nd [Marine] Raider Battalions scheduled for transfer to the 3rd Raiders. The vessel docked in American Samoa on the 24th."

On October 16, 1956, Peter Tali Coleman began his term as American Samoa's sixth appointed civil governor, and first Samoan governor (until May 24, 1961).



ASCC Trades Institute Authorized as ASE Certification Center

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

The Institute of Trades & Technology (ITT) at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) recently received confirmation as an Authorized Testing Center for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification. Automotive technicians from American Samoa and neighboring Pacific nations can now receive instruction, take tests, and receive the internationally recognized and highly sought ASE certification from the ITT.

ITT Dean Leusoga “Bill” Emmsley said the Institute received the good news this past Friday from ASE via an email directed to Sal Poloai, head of the School of Engineering Technology (SET). Emmsley called this development “an especially significant occasion for both ASCC and the local Automotive Industry.” He explained, “With ASCC now recognized as an ASE Authorized Testing Center, American Samoa’s prospective automotive technicians seeking certification will no longer have to travel to Honolulu to sit ASE exams. In addition, mechanics from neighboring countries within the immediate region such as Samoa, Tonga, and Fiji can now travel to American Samoa for the purposes of training, testing and certification, which will benefit the region as a whole.”

Emmsley continued, “From an educational standpoint, as ITT reviews and aligns its course curriculum to prepare students to enter into the automotive industry, and will use ASE standards to structure our program as a career pathway to national certification.”

The automotive trade, including auto dealerships and independent auto shops, recognizes ASE certification is the “pinnacle” of standards in the industry in terms of the quality of service provided by technicians to car owners. ASE certification in turn raises the expectation levels of customers regarding the service they receive. The ITT now offers preparatory courses in ASE certification, with the first of these classes having begun this week. These courses will help prepare students for the upcoming ASE exams in November 2007. Fred Suisala, currently the only ASE Certified Master Auto Technician in American Samoa, has joined the ITT faculty as its instructor for the ASE courses.

For more information on the ITT program, contact Tina Tapuai at 699-9155 ext. #325. To learn more about ASE, visit their web page at: www.asecert.org.

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With: Governor Togiola Tulafono

Saturdays @ 7a.m.

On: Showers of Blessings - FM 104.7

Call 699-8123 or 699-8124

ASG and FAA agree to the tune of nearly \$2 million for new air traffic control tower

Having never backed down from the ASG's position that the Federal Aviation Administration should be responsible for air traffic in and out of the Pago Pago International Airport, Governor Togiola Tulafono is pleased to announce that the FAA, through the Other Transaction Agreement (OTA) executed as of Monday, Oct. 1, has agreed to pay \$1.984 million to the American Samoa Government for the construction of an air traffic control tower at the Pago Pago International Airport.

The money is for the design work, siting, engineering, and constructing of a non-federal contract tower; payment of equipment and installation of tower instruments; and training and development of personnel to man the tower.

The ASG will be responsible for all of these costs, utilizing funds from the FAA who have agreed to provide maintenance for a nominal charge. This will apply to all tower instruments which cost an estimated \$50,000. Togiola said that with the savings, ASG hopes to free up that specific money to help with other portions of the project. But that's not all. The FAA has also agreed to conduct a Benefit to Cost (B/C) analysis immediately following the construction and equipping of the tower, to determine whether Pago Pago International Airport qualifies for resumption of FAA tower services.

"It was imperative for us to include a benefit-to-cost analysis in the OTA," the Governor said, adding that as of right now, FAA will not provide services because it is not cost beneficial. He added that if the numbers of travelers and flights go up during the period of construction, enough to change the B/C ratio, "then we will immediately move the FAA to resume their services to Pago Pago International Airport."

Togiola said that the ASG is very thankful that an agreement has been reached. "As soon as the flight touches down on the runway, we bear the responsibility. The OTA presents a major change to this dynamic. However, we are hopeful that with the fruition of our economic development initiatives that are being pursued and implemented, and other positive developments in our private sector and government, American Samoa's air traffic will meet, within the next few years, the minimum balance that would require FAA to resume their services, as provided in the past," the Governor said.

He expressed his gratitude to the FAA and recognized the assistance of Congressman Faleomavaega which has resulted in maintenance service being extended to American Samoa.

Togiola concluded by saying that he looks forward to working with the FAA to carry out the objects of the OTA to make American Samoa's air traffic safer for the territory and its people.

Local HIV/AIDS program awarded HRSA grant

The US Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has issued a notice of grant award in the amount of \$51,979 for the local Department of Health's HIV/AIDS program. The grant is offered annually, with this specific one covering the budget period from April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

HIV/AIDS program manager Fara Utu said that the grant award was issued following the acceptance of their submitted application. "It's an annual thing that we have to apply for," she explained. This particular grant is from the Title II program which is intended for use on the care and treatment of individuals with HIV/AIDS.

When asked if this was the first time that the HIV/AIDS program had received this grant, Utu explained, "We've had this for quite a while now, and when we heard the announcement that the grant was up for grabs, we applied for it." The HRSA Title II grant applies to a project period from April 1, 2001 through March 31, 2008. *(Continued on page 6)*

According to Utu, their program is the only one under the umbrella of DOH that operates with the assistance of three grants. The main grant is for prevention, the second for surveillance, and the third is for care and treatment, which is the Title II grant.

Altogether, the HIV/AIDS program employs five people, including Utu who encourages everyone to get tested for the disease. All tests are confidential and are conducted on a walk-in basis from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. during the weekdays. "Testing is free because it's paid for by the program," Utu said. "All testing is confidential and results cannot be given out over the phone." Only Utu and one other person from her staff, a certified health educator, have access to test results, making them the only two who can share the results with individuals who are tested.

The first two individuals to ever test positive for HIV/AIDS in the territory were diagnosed back in 2001. Since then not a single person has tested positive. "We need to get more people in to get tested in order for us to say we're safe," Utu said. This year alone, approximately 1,321 people have been tested for HIV/AIDS. "This number is just a percentage of the population which is about 65,000," Utu said, adding that testing isn't the only service they provide, as they can also provide medications, care and treatment for individuals who test positive.

More information on the HIV/AIDS program can be obtained by calling Utu and the gang at 633-2437 or stop by their office in Fagaalu.

PBDC Announces Opening in Senior Fellows Program

The American Samoa Government is currently recruiting candidates for the senior fellows program under the Pacific Basin Development Council based in the Aloha State. And joining in on the recruiting campaign trail is Governor Togiola Tulafono, who is also the newly elected PBDC president. "It is my intention as president of PBDC to move for reforms that will make PBDC a more pro-active organization that will assert itself for the mutual interests of its members at the federal, regional and sub-regional levels. And offering the Senior Fellow Program is a contribution to that moving forward stance," said Governor Togiola, adding that this is a great chance for advancement for college degree holders in the field.

American Samoa is a founding member of PBDC, a non-profit organization established in early 1980s by the governors of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and Hawaii.

From the pool of interested applicants, the ASG will select three nominees.

The job requires the successful candidate to monitor, analyze, and support development of PBDC policy documents related to federal laws, rules, and other initiatives, in addition to identifying, compiling, and analyzing information related to key policy issues in technical areas as assigned by the Executive Director. Other tasks include providing technical assistance and informal consultations to individual PBDC members and island agencies, as well as implementing special projects and performing other related duties as may be required.

"The purpose of the Senior Fellow Program is to build capacity in and among the Territories by offering a fellowship that will allow a person from the Territories to work with the Pacific Basin Development Council to carry out and implement the PBDC's strategic plan for the region," said the Governor.

The contract is for three months (60-work days or 480-hours) at the PBDC Office in Honolulu.

Minimum qualifications include a Bachelor's degree from a recognized college or university. A Master's degree in economic development, regional planning, or public/business administration may be substituted for up to 2 years of required experience. Successful candidates must demonstrate the ability to write effectively and work well with others. Work experience in PBDC member islands or extensive background in the region are preferred.

The application process includes the submission of a resume, one policy paper (10-15 pages), and two letters of recommendation (one of which must be from a current supervisor). The final selection is up to the PBDC Executive Director. The sponsoring government is responsible for providing airfare for the selected Fellow in addition to normal wages and other compensation.

PBDC will provide lodging expenses not to exceed 90-days. This full amount will be repaid to PBDC if the Fellow leaves government service prior to the second anniversary of the conclusion of the Fellowship. However, certain travel expenses, as appropriate, for the selected Fellow during the term of the Fellowship may be covered by the PBDC or the sponsoring government.

"This is an excellent opportunity for one of our very own to engage in substantive work for the betterment of our region and most importantly, our Territory," said Togiola. "It truly is a wonderful opportunity."

More information on the program can be obtained by contacting the Governor's chief legal counsel Toetasi Fue Tuiteleapaga at 633-4116 or toetasi@americansamoa.gov

Governor Togiola to visit Samoan soldiers in Korea during two-week trip

The brave sons and daughters of American Samoa who are serving in the US Armed Forces and stationed in Seoul, South Korea will receive a special visit from Governor Togiola and First Lady Mary Ann Tulafono who departed the territory last night. "While we have the opportunity, our trip there is to say thank you for your commitment to service," Togiola said. "I truly enjoy hearing and reading about the wonderful work that our soldiers and ROKSA continue to do to promote unity and harmony, and especially our Samoan culture in Korea," he added. "We are very excited that we will be meeting and visiting with our soldiers, and we really look forward to it."

According to the Governor, he continues to receive emails and letters from Samoan military personnel on tour of duty in Korea, telling him of the great things they continue to do as a Samoan family unit away from home, through their organization called the Republic of Korea Samoan Association, or ROKSA.

Before heading to the Far East, the Governor and the First Lady will first make a stop in Guam, to attend the Conference on Business Opportunities in the Islands that begins Monday, October 8th.

"It's an honor to have this opportunity to travel to the northwestern part of the Pacific to the business opportunities conference because it also allows me to continue on to Korea to meet and visit our Samoan soldiers and their families who are stationed there," said Governor Togiola.

(Continued on page 8)

Apply for the Gates Millenium Scholars Program and get a free ride to college

At a time when scholarships are hard to come by and the only sure way to move off island is to join the military, the Gates Millennium Scholars Program is offering aspiring high school seniors the chance to go to college for free.

The Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) is currently accepting applications, specifically from Asians and Pacific Islanders, for the Gates Millennium Scholars Program for 2008-2009.

The Gates Millennium Scholars Program, which was created in 1999 and funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, encourages low income minorities to attend college and allows them to do just that. Since its establishment in 1999, more than 11,000 scholarships have been awarded to qualified individuals.

Local boy Nestor Enguerra of Happy Valley, who was in the territory during the summer months, is a Gates Millennium Scholarship recipient whose undergraduate education at the University of Washington is being funded wholly under the program.

"I encourage all qualified high school seniors to take advantage of this grand opportunity to apply for a scholarship," Congressman Faleomavaega Eni said in a statement.

Interested students can apply online at www.gmsp.org or pick up an application from Faleomavaega's district office in Utulei.

Interested applicants are highly urged to apply online. The deadline to submit an **online application** is January 11, 2008, at 11:59 pm EST, while hardcopy or paper submissions must be postmarked by December 31, 2007.

Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale, be eligible for a Pell grant, demonstrate leadership ability, and plan to enroll in a college or university as a full-time student in the fall of 2008. In addition, they must be nominated by a principal, teacher, counselor, higher education representative, or other professional educator.

"Students are allowed to choose an area of discipline in their undergraduate program," Faleomavaega said. "The scholarship is renewable based on the student's academic progress and timely application."

He concluded, "Again, I encourage all eligible high school seniors to apply for a Gates Millennium scholarship. Also, I want to encourage our sophomores and juniors in high school to prepare early for scholarship opportunities such as the Gates Millennium and many other scholarships available for qualified students. Those who seek assistance regarding the Gates Millennium Scholarship and other financial assistance for education are welcome to contact my district office in Utulei by calling 633-1372."

Governor Togiola to visit Samoan soldiers in Korea *(from page 7)*

The two-day conference in Guam is the fourth meeting organized and sponsored by the Department of the Interior (DOI) to stimulate business opportunities in the U.S. territories. The previous three conferences were held in Los Angeles, American Samoa, and Honolulu.

"The DOI conference is a great opportunity to meet and forge partnerships with business and investment companies to set up business in American Samoa and other U.S. territories," said Togiola. "As we've done in other business opportunities conferences, we continue to promote the Territory as a great place to invest, set up and do business, and at the same time it allows us to see and learn ways on how to improve the marketing of American Samoa to potential investors."

Representatives from other offices within the American Samoa Government including the Department of Commerce, departed for Guam earlier this week to prepare for the event and the Governor's arrival.

Others who will be attending the conference include local private business owners who paid their own way there, in hopes of gaining valuable information and insight.

Governor Togiola and the First Lady will return to the Territory on October 21st.



ASCC students Vandella Lealofi (left) and Jessica Afuola share a lightbearted moment with dance instructor Herman Payne while attending the Broadway Theater Project this summer in Tampa, Florida.

← (Courtesy Photo)

ASCC instructor Regine Meredith (center), along with students A.J. Afano (left) and Henry Utoaluga visit the Statue of Liberty as part of their 12-day excursion to New York City this summer.

(Courtesy Photo)⇒

(See story on page 9)



ASCC Art Students Gain Experience and Recognition during Summer Excursions

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

Young American Samoans continue to bring positive recognition to the Territory in the fields of military service and athletics, but thanks to the efforts of the committed instructors in the Fine Arts Department at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC), in the near future a number of our young adults may also make their mark nationally as artists. This summer, both Visual Arts instructor Regina Meredith and Dance & Drama teacher Carmela Gallace guided small groups of their respective students through excursions into the mainland arts scene, an experience which considerably broadened the students' perspectives and in some cases offered career opportunities.

Meredith arranged for two of her most promising Visual Arts majors, A.J. Afano and Henry Utoaluga, to spend twelve days surveying the art culture of New York City. The students arranged travel funds through the sale of their own paintings, which they displayed earlier in the year during an exhibition at Feleti Barstow Library. Tony Meredith, Regina's brother who runs the New York studio Dance Times Square, volunteered to provide accommodation at his facility for his sister and her students. The studio's central location provided them with easy access to many of the city's cultural attractions, such as the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum, the New School of Design, Rockefeller Center, Ground Zero (World Trade Center), Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, and Lincoln Center. In addition to their many site visits, Afano and Utoaluga also got hands-on experience learning about Modern Dance from Tony and his partner Melanie Lepatin, and sculpture from Madame Tussauds Wax Museum.

Afano described the New York art scene as "vibrant and wild", and reflected, "The trip broadened our knowledge of art itself and its history. We saw the ancient sculptures as well as the modern works that changed the way people perceive art. This experience really opened our eyes to how far you can go in the world of art, and to how that world has no boundaries."

Three students of Dance and Drama instructor Carmela Gallace had a similar experience during the three weeks they attended the Broadway Theater Project (BTP) in Tampa, Florida. Once a year, the BTP takes several hundred young hopefuls through a rigorous course that covers all aspects of Musical Theater, with a focus on singing, dancing, and acting. Last year, Gallace arranged for a number of her students to submit audition videos to the BTP organizers, who selected Vandella Lealofi, Eric Tue and Jessica Afuola from among thousands of applicants across the nation.

Having passed the BTP auditions, Gallace's students next had to figure out how to cover their travel and tuition expenses. It helped that by the time of the event, Lealofi and Tue had graduated from ASCC and already traveled to the mainland to begin college. Having raised their BTP tuition through a combination of proceeds from their families, the College, and many kind supporters in the community, Lealofi and Tue met up with Gallace and current ASCC student Afuola in Florida this past July for three intense weeks of instruction from some of the most renowned individuals currently working in the field of Musical Theater, alongside approximately 200 other students from across the nation, as well as Canada and England.

Despite non-stop classes from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. daily, with only two one-hour breaks, according to Gallace, "The three students did a wonderful job representing American Samoa as they proved their status as world-class talents. The director of the program told me that we had stirred up quite a buzz amongst the staff, who talked about the mark that these kids from American Samoa can make in the world of Broadway, TV, and film. Influential people in the theater world from New York and Los Angeles now know about the special brand of artists that come from here."

One such influential person in the entertainment world, composer/lyricist/producer Frank Wildhorn, took special notice of Tue's vocal talents, and personally invited Tue to audition for his next Broadway play, "Havana". Wildhorn, who serves as a Creative Director with Atlantic Records and composed Whitney Houston's number one hit "Where Do Broken Hearts Go", earned additional distinction as the first American composer in 22 years to have three shows running simultaneously on Broadway ("Jekyll & Hyde", "The Scarlet Pimpernel", and the Tony-nominated "The Civil War"). Another Broadway composer present at the BTP, William Wade, invited Lealofi to audition for a forthcoming Native American-themed show, and said he has her in mind for the lead role.

Afuola, who returns to ASCC this fall, described the BTP as "by far, the most instructive experience I have ever had," adding, "Being in an atmosphere where everyone strived to do their best contributed to my perseverance. At first, I felt a little too reserved about the whole thing, but I gradually learned to stand up and be counted. With all this new knowledge I've gained, I plan to work with other students at ASCC who have the same passion as I do. I want to share with them what I've learned so that they'll find the inspiration to succeed in the field of Performing Arts. All in all, I had a taste of the real world of performance during those three weeks in Florida. If I could do it all over again, I would."

On behalf of her students, Gallace expressed her gratitude to sponsors Charlie Tautolo of McDonalds, Frank Gaisoa of Taotua Mo Oe Wholesale, Ta'aloga Drabble of Sadie's by the Sea, Tom Drabble of Rubbles, Ike Scanlan of Morris Scanlan Service Station, Oscar Betham of Betham Technologies, Blue Sky Communications, Fine Arts Department Chairperson Namulauulu Dr. Paul Pouesi, and the ASCC Administration.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 010-2007**AN EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING POLICY FOR THE AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT IN DEALING WITH ANNUAL AND SICK LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS FOR SHORT-TERM AND TEMPORARY CONTRACT WORKERS, LIMITING THE TERMS OF THEIR CONTRACTS**

WHEREAS, short term and temporary contract workers are largely made up of local hires who possess certain skills and talents that are needed in several different areas of government; and

WHEREAS, short term and temporary contract employees provide services to the American Samoa Government that are just as important as those provided by two-year contract specialists, yet receive no special benefits such as those received by their two-year contract counterparts; and

WHEREAS, a review of the applicable authorities which govern annual and sick leave for contract workers reveals no statutory or regulatory prohibition of annual and sick leave for short-term contract employees; and

WHEREAS, a fair and justified approach in dealing with short-term and contract employees must be established in order to assure the ready availability of qualified workers when needed by the American Samoa Government, and such an approach must be set as policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, the following Executive Order is hereby issued.

Section 1. Authority

This Executive Order is issued under the authority granted to the Governor in Article IV, Sections 6 and 7 of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa, and Sections 4.0111(b), ASCA.

Section 2. Consideration

Short-term employees are largely made up of local hires who possess certain skills and talents that are needed in several different areas of importance. These individuals differ from two-year contract specialists in that contract specialists are usually recruited from off island for their expertise in certain areas that are no less important. Two-year contract specialists are enticed to accept contract employment through incentives such as low-cost housing, free medical care and other benefits, such as annual and sick leave accrued according to contract agreements. The benefits that short-term contract employees provide to the American Samoa Government by virtue of their employment are no less important. However, their employment contracts contain no incentives for initiation or continuation of employment with the American Samoa Government. Yet, by and large, these are local hires who are employed to perform similar services which require, at times, that they take time off of work for personal reasons.

A review of the applicable authorities which govern annual and sick leave for contract workers reveals no statutory or regulatory prohibition of annual and sick leave for short-term and contract employees. While these same authorities cite specific formulations for two-year contract specialists and for career service employees, the absence of a formulation specific to "short-term contract employees" shall not be construed as a prohibition of such a benefit to these employees.

Section 3. Purpose

The purpose of this Executive Order to establish a fair, justified, and uniform approach in dealing with short-term and contract employees in order to assure the ready availability of said workers when needed by the American Samoa Government.

Section 4. Order and Policy

It is hereby ordered that the following policy shall be established and adopted as the official policy of the American Samoa Government in dealing with short-term and contract employees:

It shall be the policy of the American Samoa Government that short-term contract employees are allowed to accrue annual and sick leave according to formulations contained in every short-term contract. Said formulation shall be made a permanent part of the short-term/ temporary contract form, and shall be uniform for all such employees. The uniform accrual rate shall be: four (4) hours of annual leave per biweekly pay period actually worked; and four (4) hours of sick leave per biweekly period actually worked. The Director of Human Resources shall set this formulation by administrative rule, providing for periodic review every two years.

It shall further be the policy of the American Samoa Government that the term of contract for all short-term and temporary contract workers shall not exceed one (1) year. Upon the expiration of the term of contract, the short-term or contract employee shall either be moved to 'career service' status, or be terminated from employment, unless valid justification is presented to the Governor showing why the employment contract should be extended for an additional year. Said term shall be made a permanent part of the short-term/temporary contract form, and shall be uniform for all such employees.

Section 5. Effective Date

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Dated: September 24, 2007

TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO